

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 12-13 and 16-22 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-11 and 14-15 have been rejected.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the Title as shown above. Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the Examiner's objections. However, if the Examiner finds that the Title remains objectionable, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to suggest an acceptable Title.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as shown above.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

A. Claims 1-3, 11 and 14-15

1. Independent claim 1

Claims 1-3, 11 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,272,269 to Naum ("Naum") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,435,682 to Kaelin ("Kaelin"). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites projection display having an illumination module that includes "a light guide panel comprising a top surface from which light is emitted, the top surface facing the optical modulator, and an edge surface on which light is incident, the light guide panel having a

rectangular cross section.” The Examiner asserts that the cited element of claim 1 is taught by Naum, specifically, by Naum’s receptacles 44 and/or by Naum’s optical fiber 48. Office Action at p. 4.

First, neither receptacle 44 nor optical fiber 48 have “rectangular cross section[s]” as recited in claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art for this reason alone.

Secondly, the Examiner asserts “exit portion” of receptacle 44 corresponds to the “top surface” recited in claim 1. However, Naum’s receptacle is not a light guide panel; rather it is a coupling connecting optical fiber 48 and homogenizing member 30. Indeed, with regard to receptacle 44, Naum states:

The illuminator may be provided with output ports provided with receptacles 44 for receiving the input end of optical fiber 48, which may be provided with a plug adaptor 46. Receptacle 44 and plug 46 may serve to align homogenizing segment 30 and the input end of optical fiber 48 for efficient coupling of light from the waveguide into the optical fiber.

Naum, column 7, lines 41-54. Accordingly, Naum fails to teach at least the above cited element of claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art for at least this additional reason.

2. Dependent claim 2

With respect to the rejection of claim 2, the Examiner’s rejection is insufficient to satisfy his burden of establishing obviousness. In the rejection of claim 2, the Examiner addresses the “transparent material” limitation, but fails to provide even a conclusory recitation of the

remaining claim elements in the rejection. This is *per se* improper. The Applicant does not have a full and fair opportunity to understand and respond to the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, Applicant requests the rejection of claim 2 to be withdrawn. Applicant further requests that should the Examiner deem any further rejection of claim 2 appropriate, such a rejection should not be made final.

3. Dependent claims 2-3, 11 and 14-15

As claims 2-3, 11 and 14-15 each depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art at least based on this dependency.

B. Claims 4-5 and 9-10

Claims 4-5 and 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naum in view of Kaelin in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,814,442 to Okuyama. As claims 4-5 and 9-10 each depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art at least based on this dependency.

C. Claims 6-8

Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naum in view of Kaelin in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,554,463 to Hooker. As claims 6-8 each depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art at least based on this dependency.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Brandon M. White
Registration No. 52,354

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